

ADDRESS DELIVERED AT CELEBRATION OF THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF MEMPHIS LODGE, I. O. B. B.

By Brother Second Vice President, A. B. Fryer, Shreveport, La.

Brother Chairman, Fellow Members of the B'Nai B'Rith, Visiting Ladies and Gentlemen:

I am most happy indeed to be with you on this occasion, the celebration of the sixtieth anniversary of Memphis Lodge No. 35, the oldest Lodge in District No. 7, and I appreciate fully the honor accorded me by your invitation to be with you at this time. I only trust that my message may convey to you some suggestion of my earnestness of feeling and sincerity of purpose in the small part opportunity has permitted me to play in the great work accomplished under the banner of Israel's foremost representatives.

First let me convey to you the most cordial and sincere fraternal greetings from your sister state of Louisiana, and the domicile of our District No. 7—The City of New Orleans. While we realize the distance separating us from the Mother Lodge of our District, we feel the stimulation of her noble example and realize full well the celebration of the sixtieth anniversary of her organization is an event which should stand out prominently in the history of our order.

My friends, the past few years can truly be described as "Times that try men's souls." For two and a half years we were anxious witnesses to the titanic struggles which shook the very foundation of the world's civilization; for a year and a half following we were a component part of and a determining factor in the greatest war of all history; for the past year we have been the moving influence in an effort to establish a lasting world peace. For over four years the world exerted its every effort in the destruction of human lives and priceless works of art; all science and every human energy were dedicated to the struggle between "German Kultur" and the freedom of civilization. How terrible, how horrible, it all was. But the God of Righteousness conquered the "Right of Might;" the light of Truth and Honor overcame the shadow of the Hun, which so darkly overhung civilization, and Democracy was vindicated before the world. Therefore it is indeed fitting that we turn aside from this awful picture and render joyous thanks in celebration of the sixtieth anniversary of a Lodge in an Order which, for seventy-five years past, has given to the world just such ideals as have guided our illustrious and beloved President in his almost Divine leadership of the civilized nations.

In this hour of celebration let us turn our eyes back in retrospection for a moment to view the illustrious past of our order, that we may better appreciate and realize our wonderful opportunities and heavy obligations for the future.

Strange as it may sound, this beloved Order of ours, breathing its breath of Benevolence, Brotherly Love and Harmony throughout the world, was born in the breasts of twelve men who had found the autocracy of Germany inconsistent with their Jewish ideals and had emigrated to the "Land of the Free," where man's standard of man was more nearly God's standard. On October 13th, 1843, these twelve pioneers met in

the City of New York and organized the B'Nai B'Rith with its present motto: "Benevolence, Brotherly Love and Harmony," with the object of bringing the Jews of America closer together in purpose and endeavor and for their mutual uplift and protection. How well it has served its purpose in America can best be illustrated by its accomplishments and lines of activities for the past seventy-five years and more particularly its more recent development and expansion.

From its humble beginning with twelve inspired men, the B'Nai B'Rith has today eleven district Grand Lodges, four hundred and twenty-two local lodges with a total membership of nearly fifty thousand loyal Sons of the Covenant. In relative comparison has it also developed in importance as a factor in all Jewish affairs throughout the world.

The name of our Order was most advisedly chosen, as it seems to include the very idea of its creation. Truly the covenant of Abraham has been fittingly assumed by the B'Nai B'Rith and the Sons of the Covenant will even carry out Abraham's obligations to God in return for His Divine blessing and guidance. That charge, that responsibility, which our Order has cherished as its inheritance, is contained in the two words, "Yehe Berocho," which properly translated means "Be thou a blessing." To bear the message of God, of Judaism, of Benevolence, Brotherly Love and Harmony, of Service to and for Humanity. That is the true charge of the B'Nai B'Rith to its members that they should ever bear in mind.

In the discharge of this sacred heritage the B'Nai B'Rith has broadened its scope and enlarged its field of activities until it has brought itself to be recognized, in international as well as national affairs, as the representative of the Jewish people where in their civil or political rights are involved. In line with its policy of caring for the Jew and his interests under every and all conditions, the B'Nai B'Rith maintains a vast network of charitable and educational institutions throughout the United States, including: The Home for the Aged and Infirm at Yonkers, N. Y.; The Maimonides Library in New York; Cleveland Adolphus; Covenant Hall at St. Francisco; National Jewish Hospital for Consumptives at Denver, Colo.; Atlanta Hebrew Orphan Asylum; B'Nai B'Rith Orphanage and Home for Friendless at Erie, Pa.; Jewish Widows' and Orphans' Home, New Orleans; Tulane Infirmary at New Orleans; Chicago; Manual Training School; Leo N. Levi Memorial Hospital at Hot Springs, and numerous Free Loan Societies throughout the United States. In doing this philanthropic work it is more and more endeavoring to get away from the old idea of "Charity" and assuming to do simple "Justice" to those unfortunate who have been dealt with unkindly by fate, in order to make them more helpful to themselves and more useful to mankind.

While the so-called "Charities" of our order are important and necessary, yet they form only a small part of the many activities covered, the most vital of which are discharged by our Social Service Committee, Anti-Defamation League and Civil Rights Committee.

My friends, the work of our Social Service Committee is a most important work and gets closer to the real causes of unhappiness and wickedness

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